

30th June 2022

Deputy Sean Sherlock
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 32502/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite beds available in north and east Cork by institution and setting in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is committed to providing all available supports, including respite services, to Older People in the region. Community Nursing Units/Hospitals assess referrals on an individual basis in relation to the provision of respite services. Respite care is generally a planned short admission usually of one or two week’s duration. Access to same is dependent on bed availability and can be arranged by an individual’s primary care team/public health nursing service.

With regard to the catchment areas of North and East Cork, details of the dedicated allocation of HSE respite beds in these areas are set out in the tables below:

North Cork	Number of Respite Beds
Fermoy Welfare Home (HSE)	9
Nazareth House Mallow (contracted beds)	12
Teach Altra Newmarket (contracted beds)	1

East Cork	Number of Respite Beds
Cois Abhainn Youghal (HSE)	3
Care Choice Ballynoe (contracted beds)	10
Cobh Community Hospital (contracted beds)	3

A review of respite bed availability across the region is currently underway in order to identify potential areas where respite capacity can be improved and more closely aligned with demographic demand.

Refurbishment works are taking place in a number of our HSE residential units in order to comply with HIQA recommendations in relation to multi-occupancy rooms and these works may temporarily impact on bed availability (including respite beds) while works are on-going. While

these works are underway in our units, respite services are available further afield for service users in these areas. Options can be explored and discussed with the Public Health Nursing service regarding referral.

Provision of respite beds is pre-planned and dependent on the needs of the carers. For example, respite may be booked ahead by a number of months to facilitate a family holiday. Also, due to the cancellation of respite in unforeseen circumstances, some admissions can be facilitated on an emergency basis. If a respite bed is not available in a HSE facility, the HSE may be able to assist emergency cases by facilitating access to respite beds in private nursing homes.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jackie Daly', written in a dark ink.

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People